DO NOT ENTER

## STATEMENT OF THE CLAIMS

LMF 6/30/04

- 1. (currently amended) A thin film electrical heating element including an electrically conductive layer on an electrically insulating substrate, said electrically conductive layer substantially comprising a metal oxide doped with at least one rare earth element, wherein said thin film electrical heating element is stable at at least one of a power density greater than 10 watts cm<sup>-2</sup> and a temperature greater than 600°C.
- 2. (previously presented) A thin film electrical heating element according to claim 1 wherein said metal oxide is doped with at least two rare earth elements.
- 3. (previously presented) A thin film electrical heating element according to claim 2 wherein said two rare earth elements are present in said metal oxide layer in substantially equal concentrations.
- 4. (previously presented) A thin film electrical heating element according to claim 2 or 3 wherein said at least two rare earth elements include both cerium and lanthanum.
- 5. (previously presented) A thin film electrical heating element according to claim 1 wherein said metal oxide is tin oxide.